

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters

Washington, DC 20546-0001



November 30, 2007

Reply to Attn of: General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at an STS-122 Post-Launch Reception hosted by Boeing Company

NASA invitees, accompanied by their spouse or a guest, may attend a post-launch reception sponsored by Boeing at the Hilton Hotel, Cocoa Beach, Florida, on or about Thursday, December 6, 2007, from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. This event is to be held in conjunction with the launch of STS-122, at the Kennedy Space Center.

This event will be a widely-attended gathering of approximately 200 representatives of NASA, the aerospace industry, Congress and their staffers, trade associations, academia, and media. The cost of the event will be approximately \$20 per person. I find that the reception meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(2).

I further determine that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend the event. The event will allow NASA employees to discuss the NASA Vision for Space Exploration, the Space Shuttle program, and the STS-122 mission with the other attendees. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the sponsor may accept an invitation for free attendance at the reception. They may also accept invitations for accompanying spouses or guests.

NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect Boeing Company, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(3)(i), regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

  
R. Andrew Falcon